

Application No.: 09/802,421

Docket No. D02478

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

70. (presently amended) A method for receiving information content from an information distribution

system, wherein the information content is divided into a plurality of time-limited portions, the method comprising:

prompting for a pay-by-time subscription to either a first multicast group that receives a first time-limited portion of the entire information content or a second multicast group that receives a second time-limited portion of the entire information content;

receiving a selection to subscribe to either the first multicast group or the second multicast group;

providing either the first time-limited portion of the entire information content or the second time-limited portion of the entire information content depending on the selection;

prompting for a pay-by-time subscription to a third multicast group wherein the third multicast group receives a third time-limited portion of the entire information content and wherein the prompting for the pay-by-time subscription to the third multicast group occurs after the selection to subscribe to the second multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

71. (presently amended) The method of claim 70 wherein a length of the third time-limited portion of the entire information content is substantially equal to a length of the entire ~~program~~ information content minus a length of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

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72. (presently amended) The method of claim 70 further comprising:

prompting for a pay-by-time subscription to a fourth multicast group wherein the fourth multicast group receives a fourth time-limited portion of the entire information content wherein the prompting for a pay-by-time subscription to the forth multicast group occurs after the selection of the second multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

73. (presently amended) The method of claim 70 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $\Sigma(N-k)$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into and k goes from 0 to N.

74. (presently amended) The method of claim 70 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $2N-1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.

75. (presently amended) The method of claim 70 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $N+1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.

76. (presently amended) An apparatus for receiving information content from an information distribution system, wherein the information content is divided into a plurality of time-limited portions, the apparatus comprising:

a transceiver coupled to the information distribution system;

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a processor coupled to the transceiver wherein the processor operates by following instructions such that the processor;

prompts for a pay-by-time subscription to either a first multicast group that receives a first time-limited portion of the entire information content or a second multicast group that receives a second time-limited portion of the entire information content;

receives a selection to subscribe to either the first multicast group or the second multicast group;

provides either the first time-limited portion of the entire information content or the second time-limited portion of the entire information content depending on the selection; and

prompts for a pay-by-time subscription to a third multicast group wherein the third multicast group receives a third time-limited portion of the entire information content and wherein the prompting for subscription to the third multicast group occurs after the selection to subscribe to the second multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

77. (presently amended) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein a length of the third time-limited portion of the entire information content is substantially equal to a length of the entire program information content minus a length of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

78. (presently amended) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein the processor operates by following further instructions such that the processor:

prompt for a pay-by-time subscription to a fourth multicast group wherein the fourth multicast group receives a fourth time-limited portion of the entire information content wherein the prompting for subscription to the forth multicast group occurs after the selection of the second

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multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

79. (presently amended) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $\Sigma(N-k)$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into and k goes from 0 to N.

80. (presently amended) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $2N-1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.

81. (presently amended) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $N+1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.

82. (presently amended) A computer-readable media for directing a computer to receive information content from an information distribution system, wherein the information content is divided into a plurality of time-limited portions, the computer-readable media comprising instructions that control the computer to:

prompt for a pay-by-time subscription to either a first multicast group that receives a first time-limited portion of the entire information content or a second multicast group that receives a second time-limited portion of the entire information content;

receive a selection to subscribe to either the first multicast group or the second multicast group;

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provide either the first time-limited portion of the entire information content or the second time-limited portion of the entire information content depending on the selection; and

prompt for a pay-by-time subscription to a third multicast group wherein the third multicast group receives a third time-limited portion of the entire information content and wherein the prompting for subscription to the third multicast group occurs after the selection to subscribe to the second multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

83. (presently amended) The computer-readable media of claim 82 wherein a length of the third time-limited portion of the entire information content is substantially equal to a length of the entire program content minus a length of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

84. (presently amended) The computer-readable media of claim 82 further comprising instructions that further control the computer to:

prompt for a pay-by-time subscription to a fourth multicast group wherein the fourth multicast group receives a fourth time-limited portion of the entire information content wherein the prompting for subscription to the fourth multicast group occurs after the selection of the second multicast group and substantially near the end of the second time-limited portion of the entire information content.

85. (presently amended) The computer-readable media of claim 82 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $\Sigma(N-k)$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into and k goes from 0 to N.

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86. (presently amended) The computer-readable media of claim 82 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $2N-1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.

87. (presently amended) The computer-readable media of claim 82 wherein a total number of multicast groups is defined by $N+1$ where N represents a number of time-limited portions the entire information content can be divided into.